

# *A History*



# *One Hundred Years of Service*

## **North Hill Christian Church**

*(Disciples of Christ)*

**1911 - 2011**

### **Centennial Committee**

Alvina Cockburn, Chair

Linda Alexander

Patt Hooker

Arlene Pandelis

Joy Reitemeier

Gwen Peterson Rigg

Janie Selley

Marilyn Smith

Sandy Stone

Pastor Dick Talley

\* (Clinton Rigg was an original member of the Centennial Committee and his gentle guidance in the early planning was special. We lost Clint 2/11.)

**November 12 and 13, 2011**



# Centennial Banquet Dinner

November 12, 2011

Doors Open - 5 p.m.  
Dinner - 6 p.m.



Disciples of Christ

*We are a people responding to God's call, building whole community,  
reflecting Christ through our actions, and living into the reign of God.*

4620 N. Post

Spokane, WA 99205  
[www.nhchristian.org](http://www.nhchristian.org)

(509) 326-5400

**NORTH HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
**SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**  
**100TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**  
**MUKOGAWA FT. GEORGE WRIGHT INSTITUTE**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2011**

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**OPENING MUSIC**                      *Songs Throughout the Years*                      Brad Perry  
Music Minister, North Hill CC

**GREETINGS-MASTER OF CEREMONIES**                      Rev. Dr. Richard Morse  
VP Church Extension  
Rev. Dr. Richard D. Talley  
Interim Minister, North Hill CC

**INVOCATION AND BLESSING OF THE DINNER**                      Rev. Dr. Ruth Fletcher  
Regional Minister of Montana  
Former Associate Regional Minister, Northwest Region CC (DoC)

**DINNER BUFFET**

**Menu**

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Swiss Steak        | • Angel Hair Pasta Salad |
| • Chicken Citron     | • Tossed Green Salad     |
| • Baby Red Potatoes  | • Dessert-Mousse         |
| • Green Beans        | • Rolls                  |
| • Fresh Fruit Medley | • Coffee, Tea            |

**FASHIONS FROM 1911-1980'S**                      Shown by the GFWC Woman's Club of Spokane

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**                      Jane Burkett  
Moderator, North Hill CC

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                      *"Devotion"*                      North Hill Chancel Choir

**PRESENTATION OF OUR HISTORY**                      *"1911-2011 100 Years of Ministry"*                      Joy Reitemeier

**REFLECTIONS OF NORTH HILL FROM A TIMOTHY**

Rev. Dr. Robert Steffer  
Ordained, September 20, 1959, North Hill CC

**REFLECTIONS OF MINISTRY 1974-1989**

Rev. Dr. Gail Davis  
Former Associate Regional Minister, Northwest Region CC (DoC)  
Minister, North Hill CC, 1974-1989

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"Someday My Lord Will Come"*

Emanon Youth Choir  
Mary Van Voorhis, Director  
Minister of Youth and Music, North Hill CC, 1979-1983  
Sheri Kight, Accompanist, Past Member of Emanon

**REFLECTIONS OF MINISTRY 1991-1998**

Rev. Dr. Ron Greene  
Minister, FCC, Great Falls, Montana  
Minister, North Hill CC, 1991-1998

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**REFLECTIONS OF MINISTRY 2001-2004**

Rev. Sandy Messick  
Regional Minister and President  
Northwest Region of the Christian Church (DoC)  
Minister, North Hill CC, 2001-2004

**REFLECTIONS OF MINISTRY 2006-2008**

Rev. Carol Rawlings  
Associate Minister, FCC, Tacoma  
Minister, North Hill CC, 2006-2008

**THE NEXT HUNDRED-REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE**

Rev. Dr. Richard D. Talley  
Interim Minister  
North Hill CC, 2011-Present

**BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. James Burford  
Pastor, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Spokane  
Former Associate Regional Minister, Northwest Region CC (DoC)

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

Alvina Cockburn, Chair  
Linda Alexander  
Patt Hooker  
Arlene Pandelis  
Gwen Peterson-Rigg  
Joy Reitemeier  
Janie Selley  
Marilyn Smith  
Sandy Stone

North Hill Christian Church is blessed by your attendance and invites you to Worship  
November 13 at 10:30. We will continue our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration as we give  
Thanksgiving to God for God's faithfulness through the years.

We would welcome you any Sunday to our Services.

Church School- 9:30 AM

Worship-10:30 AM

Bible Study-10 AM-Tuesday

Choir 6:30 PM-Thursday

### **NHCC Vision Statement**

As a community of people called by God, blessed by the Holy Spirit, and following Christ's example, North Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is bound in covenant to continually seek God's guidance, to act and to take action in ways that embody the reign of God, and to serve human need wherever it is found.

God calls us to be a whole community and we are a place where all people are welcome, all are accepted, and each of us has an opportunity to find and joyfully share our gifts, talents and passions through worship, prayer and mission.

We seek God's guidance in building up people who explore and expand the depths of their personal relationship with God. God calls us through relationship as a whole community to minister and live as examples of the present and coming reign of God.

11/13/2011

10:30 a.m.



### Disciples of Christ

*We are a people responding to God's call, building whole community,  
reflecting Christ through our actions, and living into the reign of God.*

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# NORTH HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Nov. 13, 2011**

**10:30 A.M.**

**GATHERING THE BODY OF CHRIST**

*"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"*

Emanon  
Mary Van Voorhis, Director  
Sheri Kight, Accompanist

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please sign the registry- Thank you)*

Rev. Richard D. Talley

**PRELUDE**

*"Fantasy on Hyfrydol"*

Marion's Bells  
Andy Turtle, Conductor

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 95:1-7  
\*page 747

Rev. Robert Steffer

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

#86

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rev. Robert Steffer

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

*"Children of the Lord"*

Patt Hooker

**ANTHEM**

*"I'm Goin' Up"*

Chancel Choir  
Brad Perry, Music Minister  
Andy Turtle, Conductor

**MOMENT FOR MISSIONS**

**GOD SIGHTINGS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Rev. Richard D. Talley

**RECOGNITION OF MINISTRY AT NORTH HILL**

Rev. Sandy Messick

**GREETINGS FROM REGION AND READING OF LETTERS**

Rev. Sandy Messick

**PASTORAL PRAYER/ THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Using sin and sinners)*

Rev. Gail Davis

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 122

Rev. Carol Rawlings

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Amen.

**ANTHEM**

*"Someday My Lord Will Come"*

Emanon  
Mary Van Voorhis, Director  
Sheri Kight, Accompanist

**GOSPEL READING** I Samuel 17:1-11, 33-40 Rev. Carol Rawlings

One: This is the Word of God.

All: **Amen.**

**SERMON** "Five Smooth Stones" Rev. Richard Morse

**\*HYMN OF INVITATION** "*Be Thou My Vision*" (vs 1,2, 4) #595

**OFFERING INVITATION** Bill Jennison

**OFFERTORY** "*You Raise Me Up*" Brad Perry, Piano

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** Praise God whose breath fills all the earth,  
Whose love reveals our sacred worth,  
Whose Spirit forms one family,  
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. AMEN

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Bill Jennison

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** Rev. Ron Greene

All are welcome at Christ's invitation.

We receive both the bread and cup as they are passed. Please serve your neighbor.

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** "*Come, Share the Lord*" #408

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Prayer of Consecration Dan Stewart

Words of Institution and Distribution of Elements

Communion Music "*Prayer*" Abe Napoles, Organ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**\*HYMN OF DEPARTING** "*Here I Am, Lord*" #452

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** "*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*" Brad Perry, Piano  
Abe Napoles, Organ



(\*please stand, if comfortable)

**Nursery:** Bailey & Ryann Serquina

**Diaconate:** Dee Liedkie\*, Nathan Burford (o/c), Brian Bonicamp,  
Marilyn Smith, Rocky Stone, Mike Morris, Linda Alexander, Sally Deranleau,  
Joy Reitemeier, Patty Morris

## **Service Participants:**

- **Rev. Gail Davis** - Retired - Minister of North Hill Christian Church 1974-1989
- **Rev. Ron Greene** - Minister, First Christian Church, Great Falls, MT - Minister of North Hill Christian Church 1991-1998
- **Patt Hooker** - Layperson, North Hill Christian Church
- **Bill Jennison** - Elder, North Hill Christian Church
- **Sheri Kight** - Participant and accompanist for Emanon
- **Rev. Sandy Messick** - Regional Minister and President, Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Minister of North Hill Christian Church 2001-2004
- **Rev. Richard Morse** - Vice President, New Church and Mission Initiatives, Church Extension, Indianapolis, IN; Minister of Youth and Music, North Hill Christian Church 1976-1978
- **Abe Napoles** - Organist, North Hill Christian Church 1995-2004
- **Brad Perry** - Music Minister, North Hill Christian Church 2010-Present
- **Rev. Carol Rawlings** - Associate Minister, First Christian Church, Tacoma, WA; Minister of North Hill Christian Church 2006-2008
- **Rev. Robert Steffer** - Retired - Timothy of North Hill Christian Church, Ordained Sept. 20, 1959
- **Dan Stewart** - Elder, North Hill Christian Church
- **Rev. Richard D. Talley** - Interim Minister of North Hill Christian Church 2011- Present
- **Andy Turtle** - Choir Conductor, North Hill Christian Church
- **Mary Van Voorhis** - Director of Youth and Music, North Hill Christian Church 1979-1983

## **The History of North Hill Christian Church The First 46 Years**

In the spring of 1911, a group of members of the different Christian churches of the city who lived on the North Hill, came together for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School, which they did in a portable on the site of Willard Elementary School, at Longfellow and Wall Streets.

This small start grew rapidly and very soon after organization, the Lord's Table began to be spread each Sunday. A permanent congregation was considered.

The first meeting of the group met in Brother Jepson's home for the purpose of creating a church organization, on November 7, 1911, with 14 being present. Upon Brother Steven's suggestion, a committee of five was elected from the group to carry on the organization until February 15, 1912. This was done and Brother C. O. Wein (chairman), C. E. Turvey (secretary), E. H. Jepson (treasurer), E. C. Frost (press agent), and E. J. Hurley were chosen on this official committee. Meanwhile, the portable school building, where they were meeting, became undesirable and a Boy Scout building two blocks away was offered for rent. The offer was accepted and the congregation moved into it November 27, 1911.

At the board meeting November 17, 1911 the question of a permanent pastor was taken up. Brother Stevens recommended Brother Hardy O. Koen who was preaching at Spangle Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, and who could give the church Sunday evening services, if secured. He began to serve the congregation immediately.

At a specially called meeting Brothers Nein, Frost, and Tedrowe were appointed to look for a building site. They did, and several were reported. At the next congregational meeting it was decided to purchase the lots that the church now occupies at the corner of Post Street and Wellesley Avenue for \$700.00.

At the meeting on November 7, it was moved and carried that a church charter membership be opened and extended to February 15, 1912. This was done and at the end of that period 84 members enrolled. In August, 1951, Mrs. Delbert Powell and others of these charter members were still in our church.

During the congregational meeting on February 15, 1912, as had been previously arranged, a formal election of church officers was held with the following results: Trustees were Brothers Hurley, Turvey, Nein, Jepson, and Tedrowe; Elders were Turvey, Hurley, Nein, and Jepson; Deacons were Tedrowe, M. Baker, Wade, Amy, Grady, and Puett; Deaconesses were Sisters Amy, Turvey, Jepson, Tedrowe, Wade, and Parker.

At the meeting March 16, 1912, Brother Hurley and Nein were appointed to plan and arrange for a temporary building on the site previously purchased. On May 28 Brothers Hurley and Parker were appointed to purchase the necessary materials for the proposed tabernacle. Brothers Wade, Puett, and Brady called upon the members to solicit funds for this building.

On September 2, 1912 the new building was started with the members donating all the labor, and they had the building well started by Thanksgiving. Thirty-seven men, twenty from our church and the others from the sister churches, put the building into condition sufficient for the congregation to worship the following

Sunday. While the men were working on the building, thirty women prepared the Thanksgiving dinner in the Boy Scout building.

January 5, 1913 the church was dedicated by S. M. Conner. Meanwhile Brother V. L. McIlvaine had been selected as permanent pastor. During the month of February, he collected \$400.00 and held a short meeting that resulted in 13 accessions. Brother McIlvaine stayed until July when Gilbert E. Counts, student at Spokane University, was chosen as pastor.

Brother Counts stayed with the church until July, 1914. Brother E. B. Harris, who took up work as professor at the Spokane University, was called to be pastor in September, 1914. Under Brother Counts' leadership the church and Sunday School had increased to become one of the largest congregations on the North Hill. There were five other congregations at that time. Many new members were added under Brother Harris' pastorate. The Sunday School increased from an average of 80 to 125. Brother E. J. Foltz was the superintendent. At this time more room was needed so an addition was made for the accommodation of the primary department and also to be used as the kitchen. August, 1951 saw the Builders Class meeting in the kitchen.

Evangelist Brother Kitchen held a short meeting, which resulted in 15 additional members to the church. The winter of 1916-1917 was a very trying period for the little band because a large number of the pioneers and leaders moved away. During the first years of the war when the congregation was suffering from the loss of membership, Brother McIlvaine labored with them again and instilled into their hearts a greater faith in what the future had in store for them.

Brother Marion McQuary was called to the church in 1918. Being a young man with a winning personality and full of ambition, he soon had the work of the upgrade. About this time the Sunday School, which was going through a period of depression, came under the control of Brother N. F. Howell, who proved very efficient and the school began a steady growth, reaching an average attendance of 150. During the winters of 1920 and 1921 on several occasions it reached the 200 mark. Brother McQuary worked the field very diligently and made large gains. In the spring of 1920 a great impetus was given the work when Evangelist Percy G. Cross held a meeting resulting in 72 additional members.

Plans were made for a new building and in the fall of 1920 the foundation was built and the building roofed. The cornerstone was laid January 30, 1921 with George W. Keepper, pastor of Central Christian Church, as master of ceremonies, and C. D. Harris, pastor at Milton, Oregon, giving the address.

In October 1921 the Sunday School entered another period of prosperity when James Wyse became Superintendent. Great growth was made, reaching the 200 point for an average. It reached the 250 mark by 1922.

Brother Z. O. Downard became pastor in December, 1921. In 1922 marked improvements were noted in all departments. There were 219 in membership, 108 being definitely active, while the others were either non-resident or inactive. The building debt was reduced to \$7,200.00, and plans were being made for taking care of that, and for future growth.

In June of 1922 the J. L. Hazen family arrived, and was to become one of the most outstanding families at North Hill Christian Church.

In August, 1923, Carl A. Johnson took up the work, and with the cooperation of H. L. Radabaugh as Sunday School Superintendent, the entire church and school took on an upward swing in interest, attendance, and membership. The Sunday School reached a 300 attendance several times in the year following.

At the annual meeting October, 1923, A. C. Whisler was selected Superintendent of the Sunday School. A definite program of work was adopted in all departments. All joined hands, dedicating anew their lives in His service and to enter the open door of opportunity.

In January, 1924 Oscar A. Cooper with his helper, Miss Vivian Whisler, held a very profitable meeting, resulting in a general spiritual awakening of the Church, 12 members being added. The year ended victoriously, with a large increase in Sunday School attendance, and a net increase of 53 in church membership.

"The North Hill Christian," paper made its appearance in July of 1924 with C. H. Turvey as editor. It had a paid up subscription of 436. This paper was issued and sent through the mail each week except during the months of July and August, for eleven years. It served to hold interest in all departments of the church. Later on, the "North Hill Christian" returned to press, and to this day is sent to many members and friends 26 weeks out of the year.

During this year Mrs. Ben Johnson became the choir director, and raised it to the rank of one of the best in the City of Spokane, attracting some of the best musicians obtainable.

In the beginning of 1926 the question of finishing the upper structure of the building, from plans that Brother C. H. Turvey had drafted, was raised. In April



the trustees were ordered by the congregation to borrow \$10,000.00 from the Church Extension Board for its completion. In August the contract was signed and the completed building was dedicated in November, 1926, by Brother K. E. Burk of Ellensburg.

At the beginning of 1927, Brother Wyse took over as superintendent of the Sunday School, and Brother Whisler became the Director of Education for the church.

This was the first regular religious educational committee the church had organized.

In 1928 Brother G. O. Blackman became the Sunday School Superintendent.

In March, 1929 Brother Ross and wife commenced evangelistic meetings which continued for many weeks with many new additional members. In September, 1929, Miss Frances Fairbanks was called to position of Director of Religious Education and in charge of the Sunday School. This year ended with a large increase in membership, with as many as 155. But there were practically 100 members withdrawn by death and moves away, so it left a net gain of 55.

In September of 1930 Brother C. E. Stanton took over the pulpit and held it until June 3, 1934 when his resignation was accepted. For two years of his ministry, the Sunday School was led by him. Under his leadership the Sunday School reached an average of 300. Brother Britt was then placed at the head of the Sunday School to serve until 1935.

On September 4, 1934 a call was extended to Brother C. C. Curtis of Moscow, Idaho to become pastor, which he accepted. At the beginning of his pastorate he held a short meeting to call Brother Guy E. Curtis as song leader.

This meeting resulted in a number of confessions and several transfers by letter or statement. Brother Curtis was a careful builder, and with the help of Sister Curtis the church managed to hold the even keel that was so unusual during the depression. The depression was very destructive to church interests in general around the area, but North Hill was not so adversely affected. The church added many new members and families to its roll.

During Brother Curtis' ministry, May 6, 1935, a new financial system was introduced. The "Storehouse, Tithing System" of volunteer offerings was put into practice. Offerings from all departments were received into one treasury and budgeted from there. There were to be no pay entertainment, no pay suppers, and no collection plates passed at the service. This system did away with the every member canvas and special drives. This system worked well from the start. In June, 1937 Brother Curtis resigned to become pastor of Hillyard and Opportunity churches. We had one short meeting in exchange with the Pacific Avenue Church during Brother Curtis' pastorate.

July 3, 1937 saw the fellowship hall of the first building destroyed by fire. This building was so useful as a general hall, a place for supplies, committee meetings and Sunday School purposes, that its loss was greatly felt by the congregation. Each member awaited with patience a time when he or she would see it replaced it with a permanent structure.

In March 1937 Brother Newton Brunton held a short meeting, and previous to Easter in that year, was called to be pastor of the church, to finish out the remaining part of Brother Curtis' year. His work was so successful that he was called for another year.

Brother D. W. Powell became the Sunday School Superintendent after Brother Benjamin resigned in 1937. He served his position until Miss Lena Hayes was elected at the regular congregational meeting in December, 1937. The State Evangelist, Brother McQuary, with his wife as song leader, came to the church for short meetings in February, 1939. The results of these meetings were 19 confessions and 11 transfer memberships. The congregation then had 313 members of which 231 were active. The Sunday School then averaged 256 in attendance. Brother Newton Brunton served in 1938 as well.

Brother O. A. Adams was called in 1939, but resigned at the end of the year because of his health.

In 1940 Rev. and Mrs. Marion McQuary were called to lead our group. Their ministry lasted until 1946 and many additions were made, and the work moved forward regardless of war conditions. Our boys went to war, but other families moved in and took their places in our church.

North Hill Christian Church called Rev. Frank G. Van Doren to be its pastor in September, 1946. Since that time 1,035 persons joined the church by baptism or transfer of membership under Rev. Van Doren's ministry. He and his family did a marvelous work, not only within the church but also in the community. Many changes took place during his ministry, including the purchase of the lot adjoining the church proper. Membership grew from 350 to 800 persons under Frank Van Doren's leadership, bringing the church to the top 100 churches of our brotherhood for additional membership in 1956. Rev. Van Doren also ordained to the ministry Kenneth Britt, Rex Jones, Floyd Chapman, and Dewayne Howell.

Because of our growth it was necessary to plan for more space, and on April 1, 1951, the deacons took on the job of looking into the feasibility of adding another story on the educational plant. On May 6, 1951 a committee was formed to carry out this project. After a great deal of investigation, this project was abandoned, and on January 4, 1953 several people were named to a building committee to make all plans for a new sanctuary. On March 13, 1955 a plan for raising funds for this new sanctuary was outlined, and Gene Ashback was named campaign manager on May 1. The first fund raising campaign was held May 15<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>. After two such successful campaigns, the new sanctuary was started in August, 1956 by Hazen and Clark Contractors. It was completed in April, 1957. The new sanctuary cost \$126,000.00, bringing the total value of the church to about \$275,000.00.

The business, spiritual, and social life of the church is directed by our church board which consisted at that time of trustees, elders, deacons, and deaconesses. It was elected annually. In 1955 the Functional Church Plan was adopted so that the board would have a pattern by which it could govern the various activities of a fast growing church. Brother J. L. Hazen served as chairman of this board from January, 1939 to August, 1955. He was followed by Brother G. M. VanderMeer.

For at least 20 years Miss Lena Hayes served as the Sunday School Superintendent, and brought the average attendance from 175 to 450 in 1957.

On April 14, 1957 we held our first services (8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) in the new sanctuary at which time the congregation voted to use the collection plates because of the number of exits in the new wing of the building.

A week later of that year was Easter Sunday, and all records were broken in church attendance. 1,211 people came for the double morning services. The same Sunday in the evening service there were 24 persons baptized.

Due to the large attendance at the morning services, the board voted on June 5, 1955 for two morning church services to be continued indefinitely. However, the board voted to discontinue the two morning services as of May 19, 1957 until such time that it would be necessary to have them again.

## **The Next 54 Years**

The first 46 years (1911-1957) of North Hill Christian Church were written some years ago. This writing will attempt to supplement that beginning documentation as the church celebrates **100 years**.

Also a wonderful overview of North Hill in recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church was prepared in 1986. We will share some of those most interesting stories by adding bits of them to this current history update. Alla Jensen was author of the 75 year writings.

### **1946 and forward:**

On August 25, 1946 the congregation accepted the Pulpit Committee report to call the Reverend Frank Van Doren to serve as pastor of North Hill Christian Church. An October 6 dinner following morning service welcomed the new pastor and wife Hazel and daughters Bonnie and Sandra.

During this period J.L. Hazen was serving as chairman of the board as he had since 1949 and continuing to August 1955.

Miss Lena Hayes was serving as Sunday School Superintendent as she had since 1936, continuing in that capacity until 1959 - a total of 23 years. She brought the Sunday School attendance to 450 in 1957. Other records indicate an average attendance of 511 during April 1954. Miss Hayes died in 1981.

In 1946 there was a problem in purchasing the grape juice for communion. Those who had some would donate it. At one time Demo Atanosoff was providing juice from his own grape vines in order to assure communion juice. Supply depended upon the local grape crop.

Minutes of the November 1946 board meeting indicated the seemingly impossible order to install a telephone in the pastor's study. The problem?

**December 1947:** Plans were underway for a patrol to see that Sunday School children got across the street safely.

### **The 1950s**

**May 1950:** "Whispering" before church services started was annoying and board chair J.L. Hazen hoped a method could be determined to "stop" this. The board approved sending Reverend Van Doren on a two week trip to raise funds toward the \$10,000 debt on Zephyr. He also was going to try to raise more funds at the state convention of DoCs.

**October 1951:** Marge Bogue was hired and became the first church secretary at North Hill to be paid.

**1951-52:** Robert Steffer was the church pianist as well as Virginia Brady mentioned as pianist at that same time.

**June 1949:** Reverend Van Doren and O.S. Benjamin were appointed by the general board to request a blinking “stop” light at Wall and Wellesley and Post and Wellesley at a City Council meeting. Concern for the number of NHCC children crossing the street on those corners was the reason for this move.

**October 1951:** “Student College Fund” was established to assist/recruit students to attend college for their Christian education. Except designated funds, 5 percent of church receipts would go to this fund. The Board of Elders determined the need and the amount to be given and as a result a number of North Hill youth were assisted in this manner.

**1951-52:** NHCC’s Christian Women’s Fellowship provided entertainment, sandwiches and coffee for boys at the U.S.O. Some boys were invited to homes for dinner.

**February 1953:** Elders sponsored a letter protesting the liquor and cigarette advertising on TV and radio invading our homes.

**October 1953:** Mrs. John Crowder is hired as church organist (\$5 a week).

**April 1954:** Board determined a policy change to allow paying a qualified, experienced choir director, minimum \$25 per month for 9 months of the year. Mrs. R.W. Patterson was recommended as the first paid choir director.

**February 1954:** The Men’s Fellowship announced they were purchasing 500 “little” piggy banks to be distributed among members and friends - red for the men

and yellow for the women. Contents will be applied on the old building debt. Slogan - "a dime a day will pay off the mortgage in May". Losers will treat the winners to dinner. There are still little piggy banks to be found in our memoirs.

**November 1956:** Pulpit microphone and loud speaker were stolen during the week of 11/25.

**New Year's Eve 1956:** A board approved "All Night Watch Party" included a talent show, games, food, and from 10:30 to midnight a travelogue and devotions.

**March 3, 1957:** The Building Committee was granted authority to select the color scheme for the new sanctuary vs. the plan/scheme presented by the architect. Note: this was only one of many challenges or "differences of opinion" during the building project between contractors, sub-contractors, architects, etc.

**April 14, 1957 :** The board adopted the Worship Committee recommendation for passing offering plates to replace the central "treasury" box starting with the first service in the new sanctuary. A unique feature of the North Hill congregation had been the fact that since its formation no collection plates were ever passed and tithes and offerings were placed in the "treasure chest" at the entrance to the sanctuary. With the new sanctuary nearing completion it was believed there were too many entrances to secure.

**June 1957:** The new sanctuary was dedicated. Several visiting pastors participated with Rev. Earl Van Doren, Executive Secretary Washington Christian Missionary Society, delivering the dedication sermon. Chester Brenton, Building Com-



mittee Chair , and Dr. W.P. Whittaker, Chair of the Building Fund, made comments.

**Spring 1958:** The building committee headed by Chuck Hively approved plans and proceeded to remodel the educational building with the help of the entire church membership. The long range plan was to have the entire building remodeled and completed in three year's time. The kitchen was moved from the lower basement level to the main (second) floor. A social hall was placed on the site of the former old church sanctuary. The third floor was remodeled into Sunday school class rooms. The social hall was completed in the fall of 1959.

**August 1958:** Sid Kistler from Central Christian Church was hired as Choir Director for 9 months September 1958 - May 31, 1959.

**May 1959:** Mrs. Crowder resigned as organist and Linda Davis was hired.

In 1959 some of the congregation were moving to the new Country Homes Church to give them an impetus in their beginning.

**September 20, 1959:** Robert Steffer was ordained.

**July 1960:** Names of church organizations were changed from Committees to Departments and the Worship Committee to Worship and Fine Arts Department.

**December 4, 1960:** Reverend Frank Van Doren announces his resignation as pastor of North Hill effective January 1961. This ended 15 years of service, years of great growth in membership and of major building programs completed.

## **The 1960s**

**February 1961:** Jack E. Barker was called to be the minister.

**May 26, 1961:** Reverend I.E. Metcalf closed his ad interim ministry with the sermon “When The Saints Go Marching In”.

**June 4, 1961:** Reverend Jack E. Barker begins his ministry with North Hill.

**September 1961:** Thomas Yates is named Minister of Visitation.

**November 1961:** North Hill’s **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** featured Earl Van Doren as speaker.

**January 1964:** Clinton Rigg was named Associate Pastor and served in that capacity to June 1970.

**1965:** Richard Burris was ordained here.

The 1960s were good years for North Hill following membership growth and the building expansion of the 1950s . A new and young pastor, an associate pastor, a large choir, and a strong Christian Women’s Fellowship contributed to the enthusiasm of the congregation. Sunday School teachers led with spirit and vitality, Christian Education was a focus and the large number of participants benefited from the dedication and talents of their leaders. Fred Peterson’s “Builders Class” (congregation’s seniors) was especially popular for many years providing spiritual learning and fellowship for many. Every third Friday the church calendar

indicated a “party” for that group. The Koininia group for young marrieds also had a great participation. It’s correct to say that all classes for youth and adults were popular.

Clint Rigg’s Christmas pageants are remembered as outstanding productions. Clint was skilled in photography and at least for one program he took the children to the farm of Bob and Gerry Boston where the manger scene was enacted with the farm animals playing their important part of the Story. King Herod’s Court was depicted by Clint’s taking the children dressed as Wise Men to the former Patsy Clark Mansion in Browne’s Addition to pose them in the ornate drawing room.

Mike Black became the youth minister and choir director in 1965. He was ordained at Pacific Avenue Christian Church in 1971.

### **The 1970s**

Reverend Jack Barker submitted his resignation effective June 1970.

Associate Pastor Clinton A. Rigg served as the Interim Pastor from July 1970 through June 1971.

Eldon L. Haley was called to serve as minister in July 1971. Clinton Rigg returned to the Associate Pastor position until July 1973.

**November 14, 1971:** A 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was observed with a Sunday evening dinner. Included in the printed program was a reprint of the July 18,

1924 (second issue) of the North Hill Christian newsletter. There were advertisers!

**November 17, 1971:** Church mortgage for the sanctuary completed in 1957 was burned!

Mark Tinstman was named Associate Pastor and served in that position from September 1973 to August 1975.

**November 1974:** Marge Bogue, secretary of NHCC was elected Regional Moderator - the first woman to be elected to the office!

**July 7, 1974:** Reverend Gail Davis was installed as pastor.

**August 25, 1974:** Ordination of Stephen Haley with Gail Davis leading the service.

**June 21, 1975:** Gary Fowler was ordained with Gail Davis presiding.

**July 1975:** New pews, choir chairs, and carpeting approved with fund drive for \$25,000.

**September 7, 1975:** Rick Morse installed as Minister of Youth and Music.

**December 1975:** Baldwin baby grand piano to church as memorial gift.

**April 1976:** *Emanon* presents "Every Soul Needs Music" as one of their first concerts.

**May 1977:** The Reverend Frank Van Doren was elected to Pastor Emeritus status.

**May 1977:** Carol Simonson named Minister of Youth and Music and served until May 1979.

**June 1977:** Remodeling of kitchen was approved.

**April 1979:** Brass communion service was dedicated as a memorial gift in honor of Dr. Paul Whittaker.

**Fall 1979:** Parking lots were paved allowing 81 spaces. Special giving to pay for the \$9,000 additional funds needed to pay for it.

**August 1979:** Mary Van Voorhis begins as Minister of Youth and Music.

### **The 1980s**

**February 1980:** North Hill's first sponsored refugee family arrived for resettlement aid.

**May 18, 1980:** Eruption of Mt. St. Helens caused postponement of new member dinner.

Regional Assembly scheduled at Whitworth College was postponed and rescheduled for September.

**August 1980:** Rick Morse, former NHCC Youth and Music Director and presently

pastor of First Christian Church in Coeur d'Alene was **ordained** with Gail Davis leading the service.

**August 1980:** A special "pew fund" funded new pews for the balcony.

**June 1981:** Regional Assembly held at North Hill.

**September 1981:** Hand bells were given to the church by Marion and Guy Parmley.

**September 20, 1981:** Began 2 worship services - 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., essentially identical services.

**November 1, 1981:** 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of North Hill was celebrated.

**September 1982:** Four singing choirs, three bell choirs, and three competent organists allowed an "exciting church with a lot of talented people".

**December 1983:** Mary Van Voorhis resigned as Minister of Youth and Music effective January 1983 so that she might pursue a ministry of singing and teaching voice.

**January 1983:** Mike Ferrians was approved to direct the choirs on a temporary basis.

**July 1983:** Mike Ferrians was called to become the Director of Music through the *Emanon* tour.

**July 17, 1983:** Dr. Robert Steffer, Division of Homeland Ministries, delivered the

sermon, NHCC being his home church.

**November 20, 1983:** Rev. D. Kim Fields was installed as Associate Pastor. She would be the first woman to serve as a pastor at North Hill. She resigned effective December 1984.

**March 1984:** It was reported the basketball teams did well in the just completed season and the summer will have three softball teams - men's, women's, and Jack and Jill. Sports activities were popular in the 80's and into the 90's. Pastor Gail Davis was prompted at about this time to report that Lenten Season had just ended and now we were entering Softball Season. Bowling remained a popular church league activity from 1957 through the 90's and on.

**July 1984:** Ceiling fans were installed in the sanctuary.

**May 1985:** Board voted to install a home-style elevator, the "Elavette" at a cost of \$25,000 and planned a three-month drive to raise the majority of funds needed. Fund drive later extended to one year and successfully paid the costs.

**September 1985:** Tom Fowler began as Minister of Visitation.

**November 1985:** Norma Smith was employed as the church secretary.

**December 1985:** Retirement party held for Marge Bogue after serving 34 years as church secretary.

**1986:** Doris Johnson served as moderator of the Northwest Region.

**November 1986:** The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of North Hill was celebrated.

**April 1987:** A \$75,000 loan was secured from Church Extension to purchase the two houses adjacent to the church, \$783 was due the first day of each month toward the loan.

**May 1987:** NHCC hosts NW Regional Assembly.

**September 1987:** Mike Ferrians to Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

**October 1987:** The Christian Women's Fellowship celebrates 40 years of working and worshipping. Pat Lee delivered the sermon "The Choice/The Chosen".

**June 12 1988:** Congregational meeting. An affirmation vote on the issue of accepting women as Elders of the church was conducted by *written* ballot. 81- yes to 50- no. This decision resulted in the loss of a number of church members.

**September 24, 1989:** Pastor Gail Davis ends his pastorate at North Hill after 15 years of service. Personnel Chair Don Whittaker stated "Gail helped us seek and Gail helped us find". now is the time to say, "well done good and faithful servant".

**October 1989:** Raymond Biggers is called to serve as Interim Minister

### **The 1990s**

**July 1990:** Marilee Fristo was hired as Minister of Youth and Music

**September 1990:** Norma Smith was honored for her years as organist and her



music ministry here.

**October 1990:** Michael Ferrians, Youth Minister and leader of the *Emanon Choir*, was called to serve the First Christian Church in Waitsburg following Lexington Theological Seminary.

**November 1990:** Ronald C. Greene was elected to serve as Senior Pastor of NHCC beginning his work January 1991

**March 17, 1991:** Installation service was conducted for Ronald C. Greene

**May 1991:** David Hardin was hired as the new Minister of Youth and Music

**July 1991:** Dick Johnson created the new church letterhead showing the importance of *music* in the life of North Hill.

**1992:** “Build for the Future” , a three year capital campaign to raise \$72,000 was adopted.     Step 1 - a new roof on the sanctuary and sacristy

                 Step 2 - a sound system

                 Step 3 - “embrace the future”

**May 1992:** Norma Smith retired as church secretary. A new computer was in the church office just prior to her retiring.     Was this the first computer and did Norma have something to do with the installation of this new “machine” to bring North Hill into the cyber world?

The Elders initiated a red rose for the memorial service of any member experiencing a death in the immediate family.

**Rally Day 1992:** *New Song* , a more contemporary, less formal service - 8:30 - 9:20 a.m. was offered by Pastor Ron Greene. The music featured the newer choruses and gospel hymns and more exploration of the scripture for the day and the implications for our lives versus preaching. This became a popular service for a number of the congregation.

**May 1993:** The board voted to carpet Hazen Hall rather than removing the old tile and the possible hazardous material underneath.

The sanctuary was repainted in the summer of 1993.

**July 1993:** Approval was given to start a drive to purchase supplemental hymnals, "The Other Songbook" @\$10 each.

Elders were requested to form a prayer chain.

**September 1993:** The pastor reported that North Hill ranked third in the region for average worship attendance and seventh in participating membership.

**1993:** A pew in the sanctuary was shortened by the *Gang of Four* to make room for wheelchair.

**May 1994:** David Hardin resigned as Minister of Music.

Christopher Whittaker's Eagle Scout project, a 3'x5' sign indicating the church, was mounted on posts and placed at the Wall Street parking side.

Approved raising of funds to purchase Chalice Hymnal for the sanctuary. Cash order by September will ensure price of \$3000 at March '95 publishing date.

200 hymnals, 25 large print copies and 2 keyboard hymnals still being enjoyed in 2011.

**September 1994:** Jeff Batdorf was hired as Minister of Music.

**1994:** Disciples Year Book reported an average worship attendance of 171; Sunday School-68

**March 1995:** North Hill and Spokane Police Department established a Willard School Community summer recreation program to involve youth in healthy, non-violent activities in order that they might experience trusting relationships between adults and youth (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades). Lloyd Schaeffer coordinated this program.

**May 1995:** Abe Napoles is hired as organist.

**June 4 1995:** Pentecost Celebration and Chalice Hymnal dedication. Involved area wide Disciples, Chancel Choir, Junior Choir and Marion's Bells. Other church choirs joined to form a mass choir.

**June 1995:** Ron Greene granted 4 weeks of continuing study after 5 years as minister. Seeking Doctor of Ministry.

**June 1995:** Randy McCrea began as Minister of Youth.

**November 11, 1996:** 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary was noted with historians hosting a coffee hour.

**November 1998:** Pastor Ron Greene submitted his resignation effective Dec. 31, 1998.

The congregation grew modestly in these years and engaged in significant ministries with children and youth. Music ministry remained a particular focus and the Emanon Youth Choir played a significant part in the congregation's ministry through its performances and concert trips. It also became more fully integrated into North Hill's broader ministries. A joyous music ministry with grade school children resulted in some memorable Christmas programs and worship presentations. Marion's Bells regularly added to the worship experience. The various athletic teams sponsored by North Hill continued to provide a focus for connection and fellowship for many young (and young at heart) adults. A few championships were celebrated. Sunday church school hour was a place of connection and vigorous discussion for younger adults as they expanded and deepened their understanding of Scripture and faithful living.

**1999-2000:** Paula Cote was Youth Director.

**1999-June 2002:** Andrew Turtle was Chancel Choir Director

April 1999 through November 30, 2000: Ineke Mitchell served as intentional interim minister. Ineke was very direct in causing us to look at our past and determine how we were going to face the future at North Hill. In March 2000 the Faithful Planning Task Force ministry plan for the future was adopted by the congregation. The interim admonished that clear and open communication needs to be the focus of leadership. "Growing thriving congregations have the following in common: a deep love for Jesus Christ, a desire to make the gospel relevant and most of all: fearless commitment to take risk and face failure".

## **The 2000s - Millennium!**

**January 2001:** Sandra Messick was called to serve as pastor in October 2000 and began her ministry in the New Year. She would be the first woman to serve as senior pastor at NHCC.

In this first year the process of updating most documents of the church such as by-laws was begun and a Personnel Policies and Procedures manual was developed also in 2001-02. Simplifying the structure and functions of the various departments was a goal and the implementation of a Task Force in place of committees in some instances was achieved.

A Pastoral Relations Committee was formed in 2001 with Bill Jennison as the first chair.

A \$12,000 loan was negotiated with BCE for repair/replacement of the furnace.

**October 2001:** Tom Fowler, Minister of Visitation, was granted a leave of absence due to continuing health problems. His retirement was announced in **January 2002**.

**January 2002:** Bill Phipps was offered the Interim Minister of Visitation position and was installed in the permanent job February 2002

**March 2002:** Approved purchase of a 1999 Chevy 15-passenger van with about 31,000 miles. \$12,800 came from designated memorial funds and \$5,00 from undesignated.

**March 2002:** Outside lighting around building upgraded. Suspended ceiling in

hallway and Fireside Room installed to cover heat ducts and exposed pipes. A few months later a major upgrade to the Hazen Hall level bathrooms to make them more accessible for persons with disabilities was complete. Lower level bathrooms as well received big improvements with new fixtures, lighting, paint and more.

Another **major** change in the appearance of the church during these years was changing the color of the “old” brick building to a brick **red** to match the brick of the Sanctuary (completed in 1957) - a big paint transformation which was hailed by most, including the neighborhood and those who drove by regularly.

**March 2002:** Vicki Humbert was hired as the secretary bringing a vast business experience and efficiency to the church office.

**April 2002:** The office computer was updated.

**May 2002:** Athina Beckham was named to the Youth Director position.

**June 2, 2002:** A service of Dedication and Celebration for the new organ, included an organ concert with performances by Abe Napoles, current, and Jean Whitford and Jeff Batdorf former NHCC organists, and Rosemeri Dempsey, organist Westminster UCC.

**July 2002:** Lee Cox was named Choir Director.

**2003:** North Hill was reported to be one of the largest contributors to the **Zephyr** capital fund campaign.

**July 2003:** North Hill joins with other area churches as a support host for the Interfaith Hospitality Program, a program for feeding and housing families who are homeless while they are assisted in finding more permanent housing and employment.

**July 2003:** The board approved the request for North Hill to be a charter partner to once again establish scouting in the area. This included providing a meeting place, approved leadership, assist in program direction and pay the \$20 charter fee.

**2003:** Average church attendance was 100.

**May-June 2004:** Not a part of the ministry plan but a significant few weeks for the reader board sign near the corner of Post and Wellesley. Three motorists within a one-month period hit the sign with the latter causing significant damage to the metal supports. The sign after the last “hit” said “you meet the nicest people by accident”. Pastor Messick was not able to explain the sudden spate of accidents but was interviewed by a newspaper reporter and a picture of the damaged sign appeared in that paper. Insurance covered the damage and a sturdy foundation was installed for the base. North Hill is known as the church with “The Sign” because of the Christian, often humorous quotes, always posted and enjoyed by passersby.

**May 2004:** Athina Beckham, Youth Director, resigned effective July 1.

Ginger Johnson was hired as pianist/organist following the resignation of Wray Beth Burris.

Sandra Messick submitted her resignation as senior pastor, effective July 18, 2004. Her husband's job transfer took the family to the west side of the state. In October 2009, she was installed as Regional Minister of the Northwest Regional Christian Church (DOC)

Pastor Messick's ministry was one of leadership development and one of encouraging each person to recognize their passion or the gifts they might offer to the service of God. We were helped to move from a pastoral to a program size congregation. Moderator Sam Selley at the last board meeting with the pastor said "she gave us hope and determination".

**July 2004:** First week for serving as **host church** for IHN - providing overnight stays and meals.

**August 2004:** KyriAnne Watkins, graduate of NCC, hired as Youth Minister

**October 2004:** Hollis Bredeweg was called to serve as Interim Minister.

The congregation looked forward each Sunday to the message that he would bring to the worship service.

**June 2005:** Matthew Gordon was ordained with Hollis Bredeweg presiding. Bill Jennison assisted with the planning.

Hollis Bredeweg leaves the interim job when called by the **UCC** to serve a regional position. This was a time of oversight and positive reinforcement for the work of the church. The minister team of Skip and Betsy Baker-Smith served as



interim(s) until the call was made for a settled pastor.

**February 2006:** Carol Rawlings begins as senior pastor of NHCC.

North Hill was prepared to enter the Region's Journey of Discovery program and Carol was here to shepherd us through the beginnings of this very lengthy transformation process. A significant amount of time was spent in working with JOD teams in the development of a vision for how the church might look and be in the years to come.

**April 2006:** Mandy Serquina is hired as administrative assistant bringing computer and people skills to the office.

The Care Team, a volunteer group to share gifts of compassion and concern for members of the congregation, was formed with the pastor's guidance and several training sessions.

The Companions group was formed as an outlet or a source for those grieving to find comfort in the company of others, through discussion and prayer, and social outings i.e., dinner, theater, entertainment.

**August 2006:** Wray Beth Burris returns as the organist/accompanist.

**September 2006:** Marieke Jackson begins as Youth Director

In 2007-2008 improvements to Hazen Hall began. The long duration of upgrading windows throughout the church was nearly completed with the new energy efficient windows installed in the fellowship hall, an expensive but fulfilling project,

what an improvement! The sad carpeting was replaced with linoleum tiles, the walls, ceiling and adjoining room and library received a nice paint job (volunteers). Hazen Hall is bright and cheery with the face lift!

During this same period new round tables to seat 8 or 10 persons were ordered (light enough to move about when necessary) - plus new comfortable chairs. Cloth tablecloths for “dress up” were purchased as well.

**May 31, 2008:** Carol Rawlings ended her pastorate on this date.

**August 2008:** Greg Skinner became the Interim Minister of NHCC.

Greg was ordained as a minister only a few months prior to being called to serve as interim here. His excitement for sharing the Word was contagious and most members of the congregation looked forward to his worship service style. Bible and book studies provided the spiritual growth for many. Dinner and Conversation gave those interested the opportunity to share and ask questions about faith matters. Mission/outreach was an important part of this ministry. Administratively the church was well cared for and ongoing improvement projects around the building continued. Journey of Discovery was supported as were departments and committees. We were often admonished to “listen” and to “hear”.

**August 2009:** Greg Skinner ended his interim minister position.

**September 2009:** The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Reverend Robert Steffer at North Hill was celebrated.

**January 1, 2010:** Michelle Moore-Mitchell arrived in Spokane to begin as senior

pastor. With her background in computer science, she soon made a long desired social media web-site for the church. This provided a place for the monthly newsletter on-line. The office received new laptops and a TV multi-media data projector was placed in the chancel area - we now have power point projections for worship! The Regional office donated their phones to our church when they moved operations so with complex installation "issues" resolved, North Hill has a much improved phone system. The pastor recommended an audit since one had not been conducted for a number of years and this was satisfactorily completed in 2010. Lenten services were shared with Country Homes with North Hill hosting. VBS was again a joint program with Fowler Methodist and Messiah Lutheran at North Hill. Local outreach was emphasized. The Journey of Discovery was assisted with getting back on track.

**May 2010:** North Hill hosted the Northwest Regional Assembly.

In the months prior to Assembly the church was cleaned and polished from top to bottom. The third level received a "face lift" with new paint in each room. The bathrooms were remodeled and decorated for a new look.

**December 2010:** Lee Cox, Choir Director, and Wray Beth Penne, organist/pianist, resigned.

**January 1, 2011:** Brad Perry began as Minister of Music.

**January 31, 2011:** Michelle Moore-Mitchell resigned as senior pastor.

**February 2011:** The beautiful new covered (awning) walk-way to the ambulatory

entrance to the sanctuary and the matching canopied cover at the “office” entrance enhanced the appearance and safety of entering from the east side of the building. The awnings were approved fall of 2010.

**March 1, 2011:** Richard Talley began as Interim Minister.

*I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity  
and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.*

*JER:29:11*

## **EMANON**

In 1973, Marc Tintsman, Associate Minister, reported the formation of a SOYF, “Student Older Youth Fellowship” which included creation of a drama group, The Emanon Players , and a Youth Choir (senior high students). In their first performance during worship, the Youth Choir had done a “far-out” job moving him to tears. His hopes were that this group would grow much larger.

By April 1974, the Emanon Players had had 2 performances of The Trial before NHCC and the Audubon United Methodist Church.

The youth, in considering a name to encompass all of these groups, chose to retain *Emanon* and in time all efforts were focused on music. *Emanon* became synonymous with Youth Choir.

*Emanon* is “no name” in reverse, but the group made a name for itself in many churches and in several states over the coming years.

Marc Tintsman resigned in August 1975 with plans to enter Brite Divinity School at TCU.

Rick Morse was hired in 1975 as Minister of Youth and Music. He was the first to brave the logistics of taking the *Emanon* group on tour.

Successors have been Carol Simonson Danielson in 1977; Mary Van Voorhis in 1979; Michael Ferrians in 1983; Steve Silver in 1987; Marilee Fristo in 1990; David Hardin in 1991; Jeff Batdorf in 1994 - 1998.

In 1976, *Emanon's* Community Concert "Every Soul Needs Music" and a mini-tour launched them on a nearly 25-year ministry of sharing the gospel musically and of gaining a deep sense of Christian community among themselves.

The first major tour in 1977 took *Emanon* on a six-state trip to include 3 southern Idaho cities, Salt Lake City, Casper WY, Montana and Oregon. In the following years, the group visited DOC churches within the State, returned to southern California and Oregon, sometimes traveling as many as 1700 miles on a tour. Most tours went smoothly, as planned, however, a bus breakdown, a canceled concert, housing and meals in Bend was a life's lesson. In 1986, *Emanon* traveled for the Disciples Assembly in Denver. \$7500 needed to be raised to support that trip. The last recorded tour in 1998 took the group to the Victoria and Vancouver BC area.

Fundraising for each tour always involved the youth group. For the Assembly in Denver there was babysitting, ticket sales at Civic Theater, selling clothing with NHCC logo, and there were always the car washes, yard sales, selling Entertainment Books, selling chocolate, even "Kiss the Pig" and other innovative money raising ideas.

*Emanon* had a 1985 reunion which was enjoyed by at least 60 of the member swith families and guests additional to that number. The **Centennial Celebration** of North Hill on November 12 and 13, 2011 will enjoy having a number of former members singing their signature song "Someday My Lord Will Come" at the Saturday evening dinner and again during Worship on Sunday.

Thank you *Emanuel* and your Youth Ministers for so many years of witnessing to God in music here at North Hill and all those appreciative churches and cities where you traveled.

### *THE GANG OF FOUR*

North Hill Christian Church is forever appreciative of the work of the “Gang of Four”, first known as the Property Committee.

The membership/purpose of the group states “membership should consist of retired church members only with talents and/or time for projects and should include the custodian”.

In 1983 Emery Jensen and Ezra Bogue started meeting and doing odd jobs in and around the building.

In 1991 the group formed with Emery Jensen as chair. The original Gang of Four in addition to Emery were Ez Bogue (custodian) Walt Liere, and Bill Piper. At one time each of these gentlemen served as chair of the “gang”.

Others who were active participants with the gang were Hank Van Wey, Jim Whitaker, Jake Klein, John Pandelis, Bill Exner, custodian, Mel Granberg, Wayne Miller, Bill Fleming, John Monteith III, and Norm Risley.

In 1996 the group was officially approved by the church board with specific responsibility for maintenance of church vehicles, buildings and grounds.

Today the Gang of Four + is Bob Hooker, Bill Phipps, Sam Selley, and Dick and Donna Bellman.

Emery Jensen, Jake Klein, and Hank Van Wey are “close by” but poor health has kept them from sharing in the camaraderie of the gang for some time.

Stop by the fellowship room for a cup of coffee and a donut on a Monday morning. That’s where you will find the four + but, not for long. They’ll soon be off in some corner of the church or grounds working away.

These are true servants helping in God’s church.

### **BOY SCOUTS**

The Boy Scouts also celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2011.

Information from 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary writings.

North Hill has a history of support for the Boy Scouts. The first Troup #49 was begun in 1927 with Edward G. Lindgren as Scoutmaster and continued for 46 years.

Henry Rautio and Richard Motz were dedicated Scoutmasters of Troup #49 for a number of those years while also serving as Elders and other leadership positions in the Church.



In 1964 Lynn Rautio and Steven Boston received the Eagle rank  
Stephen Barker received the Eagle rank in 1966 and Roger Droz in 1970 both  
from Troop #49.

Richard Fowler and Daniel Edmonds received Eagle rank from Troop #49 (date?)  
Don Whittaker received his Eagle rank from Troop #22.

Troup #117 had John Weber as Scoutmaster. Ted Weber received the Eagle  
rank at North Hill in March 1986.

In 1994, Christopher Whittaker's Eagle Scout project was the building and erecting  
of a 3'x5' sign identifying North Hill Christian Church. The completed sign was  
placed on the Wall Street parking side.

In 2003 the board approved the request for North Hill to be a charter partner to  
establish scouting once again in the area. This included providing a meeting  
place, approved leadership, and assist in program direction - and pay the \$20  
charter fee. Rocky Stone became the Scoutmaster and Bill Cockburn the Assis-  
tant Scoutmaster. A more dedicated two church members you could not find.  
Pancake feeds, sale of popcorn, and other means were scheduled to help raise  
funds for scouting activities. In about three years the scouting program was  
dropped, primarily, due to lack of interest and the necessary support of parents.

Today, the Venture Scouts meet weekly in our building and are a welcomed  
group. They are always ready to assist in any special task where we might use  
some "extra hands".

## **Memories from Marilyn**

Marilyn Northrup was asked to share her memories since becoming a member of North Hill in the late 50's:

Frank Van Doren was the pastor of the church when my family joined the church in the fall of 1957. Sid Kistler was the choir director and Marge Bogue was the church secretary. We had a very large choir at that time and they sat in the choir loft. I still remember the hymn they sang a number of times, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked". Oh, how lovely it was. I loved it.

The sanctuary at that time was where Hazen Hall is now. There were several cement steps that led from the sidewalk up to the door of the sanctuary. The entire Sunday School was very large. There were three adult classes. The Builders class was for the older folks, the Kum Join Us was for the middle aged and a class for the Young Marrieds was taught by Marge Bogue.

We also had a large children's school ranging from nursery to senior high school. Since we had four youngsters, we contributed our fair share. I soon became involved with the kindergarten class and led it for a period of ten years. Two of my students were our own Karen (Hanshew) Stewart and Fred Peterson, Jr. Karen's mom, Helen, played the piano for me and when she left Carol Upp took over. For most of the years we had 50 youngsters and our classroom was where the elevators open in the basement.

The primary department was where the church offices are now. I loved working

with the four and five year olds who were delightful and such fun.

Every year on the first Sunday of June we celebrated "Children's Day". The entire Sunday School marched into the sanctuary and presented a program to the adults. We all learned one special song and sang it together as we came in by class. It was impressive!

When we first moved into the present sanctuary we did not have the lovely pews we have now. They were hard brown chairs, hooked together in a long row, one row on each side of the center aisle. They were not comfortable.

A few years after we joined the church the Young Marrieds class was renamed to the Koininia Class. It's one of three words in Greek, meaning "Love". It was a lively class and we had such fun. Bill and Shirley Phipps were members of that class. We had potlucks, progressive dinners, and went sledding out at Zephyr with all of our kids.

We had a very active CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship). There were at least three different groups, the Helen Walker group, the Women's Guild for the working women, the third group, I don't recall the name. Another started for the young wives and mothers was the Young Homemakers and this was the group I joined. The groups met separately once a month and then met together once a month for fellowship. I was president of the CWF for two years and was also chairman of the Deaconesses for two years.

After Frank Van Doren left we had Jack Barker as pastor and in 1964 Clinton

Rigg joined him as associate pastor. Other pastors I remember in those years were Eldon Haley and Gail Davis. Gail loved Christmas and always made it special. Other pastors I remember fondly were Ron Greene, Ineka Mitchell (Interim), Sandy Messick, Hollis Bredeweg (Interim), Carol Rawlings and Greg Skinner (Interim). All have their places in my heart and memory.

Some time in the sixties, I talked with Jack Barker about organizing a group of teen age girls to be junior Deaconesses. Once a month we took our turn preparing communion. Other jobs for them were to help in the nursery and every Sunday two of them by turn were candle lighters. They were a wonderful group of girls and very dependable. I loved every one of them.

In 1968 it was necessary for me to go to work which meant working most Sundays. Because of the circumstances much of the 70's and 80's are just a blur. When I retired in 1990 one of the sweetest benefits was being able to participate in church worship again. For three years it was my privilege to serve three years as an Elder. I am at home at North Hill.

### **Notes from Patt**

Patt Hooker and NHCC in the 60's -

We always had a big thing about graduation-in 1962 when I graduated there were 8 of us I believe. We would "do" the whole service. At that time we wore our

cap and gown to church, had a big reception, and lots of pictures with each other and our families. The education department was huge and we had several Sunday School classes plus CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship)-we had officers and visited with other youth groups and went to camps. Bibles were given to those who memorized the books of the Bible, for graduation, and just about every other accomplishment. If you didn't have a Bible from the church by the time you graduated high school-you got one then!

The "chairs" that we had in the sanctuary were from the Garland Theater (wood with NO padding). I remember the Whittaker brothers (Don and Earl) sitting in them, between their parents, crossing their legs and "folding" the chair up-they were not very comfortable and it was a great day when we bought the pews. The "fund drive" to buy the pews was by the cost of each pew- we did not have the little name plates on the pews as was joked about! However, when we bought the new Hymnals-we did put donation name plates in them (60's).

The drapery behind the communion table was purchased as a memorial for Bill Moore-Birdie his wife was VERY picky about everything and Garland & Harper (decorator store) about "lost" it as she complained about the "finger prints" on the velvet-they actually hung it three times and each time they would steam it to make it hang-but *someone* would always touch it and make "finger prints"! (70's)

One of my fondest memories was when Clint Rigg used his Birds flannel graph. We actually sat by a lady that was very protective of "HER SEAT" (pew seat)-We called her the "Church Grandma" but she did not hesitate to inform strangers that

they were “in my seat and you need to move” and she would stand there until they moved-we (those who knew and sat near her) always tried to let them know before she got to church-she rode the church van.

Bob and I were the last ones married by Jack Barker in October 1969.

During the 60’s and 70’s people were often visited by the ministers-I believe that it was Jack Barker and Clint Rigg that apparently did not communicate where they were visiting and some people in the congregation were visited by both on the same day!!! We laughed that “you must have a problem because you had been visited by both”.

Young married women had a group-DEF-domestic engineers fellowship)-we always had a project and one of the things we did was start providing a meal for CROSSWALK once a month. I think we only met once a month. We made gifts for new members and visitors. It was one of our “jobs” to take something to visitors, right after church, and invite them back and also to invite them to Sunday School and other programs. Some of the things we took were small loaves of homemade bread, popcorn (just popping in), and candles (70’s).

### **Memories from Helen and Karen**

Helen Hanshew became a member of North Hill in 1943. She remembers the “big square building” with the wide, large steps on the west side of the building that

went up to the sanctuary. She notes the **large** Sunday School enrollment. ( We know that Helen was a Sunday School teacher for a number of years.)

The Fireside Room was present and that is where she and John were married in 1950.

Karen Stewart, Helen's daughter, shares some of her best memories of North Hill beginning with the 1957-ish years -

- ♦ The Sanctuary was new with a red rug down the middle, gray tile everywhere else. The seating was a kind of connected "theater seat" with no padding. When you were little and bent just right, while seated, you could fold up on yourself and not be able to get out. Your parent had to unfold you. The railings around the chancel area were made of metal and were perfect for hanging upside down on! The chancel area was more of that gray tile and you could get hurt if you weren't careful.
- ♦ The pastor's office was in the back half of the current choir room and the secretary's office in front (north side).
- ♦ The Sunday School office was located by the nursery. We had a huge Sunday School with many children's and adult classes. There was a Sunday School Superintendent and she had her own secretary to keep track of attendance, etc. Children's classes filled the third floor and basement areas. Classes were piled on top of each other. "Little kids" were downstairs. Just the kindergarten class filled the entire room that is across from the current of-

fice, to the brim. Marilyn Northrup was one of my teachers. Status was being old enough to move up to the third floor with the “big kids”. The adult classes were large. There were three main classes ... the Builders were grandparent types, the Kum Join Us were the “older moms and dads” and the Koininias were the “younger moms and dads”. Parties and socialization often occurred based on the adult Sunday School class. Youth groups also were important CYF (high school) and ChiRho (junior high).

- ♦ Christmas programs were **major productions** with plenty of cast members... huge groups of angels and shepherds. One year we all traveled to a farm to be amongst actual animals. Slides were taken and the show was part of the Christmas program.
- ♦ Large Bible Schools as well.
- ♦ Frank Van Doren was pastor in the 50's. My perception was that he was “formal” and a little stern.
- ♦ Elders were all male and perceived as a powerful group. They had major influence on church decisions.
- ♦ Deacons were all men and perceived as the “workers” around the church. They were the only ones to serve communion.
- ♦ Deaconesses were all women and prepared communion, covered the nursery, wedding receptions and other “women type things”.



- ♦ Jack Barker became pastor in the early 60's and the church continued to grow. The church was full of young families. Jack was famous for his sermons. The church became so large that Clint Rigg was hired as an assistant pastor.
- ♦ Sometime during this era, a group of members from North Hill went north to help start Country Homes Christian Church. It was my understanding that some were supposed to come back at some point, but did not.
- ♦ The church had a strong/active boy scout troop for many years. Bowling teams were also popular.
- ♦ Some chaos occurred within the church after Jack Barker left North Hill. Several different pastors covered short intervals until Gail and Eva Davis arrived in the early 70's.
- ♦ Gail Davis brought an era of peace and stability to North Hill. There was growth and a positive feeling among members. The challenge was when it was voted to allow women to serve as Elders.
- ♦ **Emanon** youth group started in the mid 70's. They were a popular touring choral group that drew young people and their families into the church. Two of the young leaders of Emanon went on to be ordained as ministers: Rick Morse and Michael Ferrians.
- ♦ Several Vietnamese families were sponsored by this church during this time as part of a re-settlement program.

- ♦ The Christmas tree hunting expedition is still remembered as a special time for families. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, young couples with families and any others who were interested would head out very early in the morning with the Dobbin's farm truck to the national forest at Priest Lake to bring back the tree for the sanctuary and for other rooms of the church plus the families could tag a tree (\$2) for their homes. After the men had loaded the trees onto the truck, blankets and tarps were spread on the road ( generally snow covered) and Thanksgiving leftovers were the fare! Such fun and fond memories.
- ♦ Church sponsored softball and basketball teams were popular during this time, often populated by Emanon members who had gotten older, married and had children. Several of these teams won numerous championships that filled the church's trophy cupboard to the brim.
- ♦ Sunday Schools grew again during the Gail Davis and Ron Greene eras, but never to the size seen in the 50's and 60's. Outstanding Christmas programs were coordinated by Sheri Kight with imaginative skits and costumes each year.
- ♦ Emanon and the sports activities carried to the 90's as well.

## **Greetings from Bonnie Lou in Colorado**

To the Members and Friends of North Hill Christian Church now celebrating 100 years of life and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ:

I want to express my gratitude for all the wonderful memories that have helped shape my life. I think of the talent shows, parties and girls' chorus and the marionette plays.

I owe so much of my Christian Education to the wonderful people at North Hill Christian Church. Included among these memories is Lena Hayes and her great example of Christian Education as Superintendent of the Sunday School. She mentored me as I taught Third Grade Class as a high schooler. I think of Mrs. Potts and her temperance lessons.

As a grade school girl at Willard Elementary School, we went to the church for the release time with flannel graph stories.

During high school my life revolved around the Sunday night youth groups and church; Zephyr, camps and conferences. These resulted in a large number of us dedicating our lives to full time Christian service.

The modeling I had in the church life has been a real standard in my own life as a minister's wife. Several of these CYF members have been lifelong friends.

In my own spiritual formation I owe much to my father and mother, Frank & Hazel Van Doren. During his ministry of 14 years at North Hill, Mother was the CYF

sponsor when we had over 100 in the youth group.

Finally, I give thanks for my wedding in the old church building in 1956. Harvey and I have celebrated 55 years of ministry together. Thirty Seven of those years have been in Loveland, Colorado. Next June we celebrate 56 years of marriage. In these many years we have seen how times change, and pray you will find new ways of ministry and witness. May you know God's continued blessing as these next years unfold.

Bonnie Lou Van Doren Ruegsgger

## North Hill's Longest Serving

We honor those who are currently active members of NHCC, were here **prior to 1960**, and who have served in God's church without interruption and in ever so many ways to this date.

Donna Bellman

Sally Deranleau

Mary Harper

Patt Hooker

Jerry Klein

Vivian Knapp

Marilyn Northrup

Arlene Pandelis

Gwen Peterson Rigg

Fred Peterson

Bill Phipps

Karen Stewart

Emery Jensen was a leader when there were building plans/projects over the years and Emery served in nearly all the leadership capacities more than once in the many years he has been a member of NHCC. Emery was most recently a proud and faithful participant in the Gang of 4+. At present, Emery is a resident of Moran Vista Living Center.

Marge Bogue was "everywhere" around North Hill and the Region since arriving at

NHCC in the 40s. Most notably, she was the church secretary for 34 years, retiring in 1985. She was the first woman to serve as moderator for the Northwest Region of Disciples of Christ. She sang in the chancel choir, she taught Sunday School, and she served as chair for the stewardship campaigns more than once. Marge is confined to a dementia unit at Royal Park Care Center. She was missed greatly as plans for this Centennial began, we would have enjoyed her assistance in writing the history of NHCC.

Anna Atanasoff was baptized at NHCC in 1933. In 1977 she was recognized for 50 years of perfect attendance and this continued for another 34 years, other than for a rare Sunday when she was ill. She was looking forward to North Hill's Centennial Celebration and we were counting on her sharing of memories. Anna went to be with her Savior on January 25, 2011.

## TODAY

The Brothers and Sisters who organized that first church on the north hill on November 7, 1911 were of great faith and their vision for building a place of worship for a growing church was realized. What absolute determination and hard work was evidenced by this group of Christians.

Since the remarkable beginnings in 1911, North Hill Christian Church has known many “Brothers and Sisters” who were just as influential as the founders in how we worshiped, how/when we would build, how we would finance, how would a Christian education be provided for the children, the youth and the adults, and how we would administer a growing church. Hundreds of families have worshiped here and we are thankful for all who entered this place and gave so much to this congregation. There were challenges and ups downs at times but the church remained dedicated to praising God for all that was offered. We *praise all these servants of God: 1911 – 2011.*

North Hill has been blessed with 20 ministers in 100 years. Each brought their special ministerial concepts and style of worship. We *honor* all former ministers and *thank them* for having served and helping us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

North Hill is a much smaller congregation in 2011 than in years prior. The church continues to give loving care and maintenance to the 90-year old building and the 57-year old sanctuary. Music is still an outstanding part of our ministry with a talented Minister of Music, a Choral Director, and the Chancel Choir and Marion’s

Bells. The Christian Ed Department is prepared with learning materials for children of all ages and the adult Sunday School class is popular. Bible Studies are offered by the pastor. The congregation continues to support mission and outreach programs in a generous and giving manner. Our outreach today is more community oriented rather than world wide mission.

The 60s were surely the beginning of cultural, societal and political change in our nation which would affect the greater and local church in a new way. The country became divided over the Viet Nam war. An era of questioning morals and authority, the 60s and 70s found the church being questioned. Churches came to lose members and influence in this time of social unrest. North Hill was not immune to these societal changes but those were good years and faithful servants continued the work in God's church.

The 90s brought the decline of mainline Protestant denominations and the rise of the non-denominational "mega churches" along with the new wave of songs. Questions of where the church is with social and social justice issues have prevailed. North Hill has been impacted by these outside influences.

Loss of membership cannot be totally attributed to change of societal influences and the rise of fundamentalist churches. Too frequently the church has found areas of disagreement within the congregation whether it be the color of the carpet or walls, the minister, accepting women to serve as Elders, lighting of the Communion Table candles,, the hymns and more/ Each period of dissension brought a loss of membership. The church is at a cross-road in its history. As we look ahead, we are asking ourselves "What is God calling us to do and be in the next



five, ten, or fifteen years”? Those who are committed to North Hill have dreams of a vital and active congregation, a dream that North Hill will be a congregation that continues to reach out through its mission and witness to the community, as well as ministering to those who call North Hill their church. Big decisions, renewed commitment and soul searching are ahead of us. If we are open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and continue to seek God’s will, we will continue on our mission as church.

A quote from Reverend Sandy Messick (who quoted from a North Carolina minister) as she ended her ministry here:

*“We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future”.*

## RESIDENT SENIOR MINISTERS OF NORTH HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Hardy O. Koen           | Nov. 1911-Dec. 1912  |
| V.I. McIlvaine          | Jan. 1913-July 1913  |
| Gilbert E. Counts       | July 1913-July 1914  |
| E.B. Harris             | Sept. 1914-July 1918 |
| Marion McQuary          | Spet. 1918-Dec. 1921 |
| Z.O. Downard            | Dec. 1921-June 1923  |
| Carl A. Johnson         | Aug. 1923-Aug. 1930  |
| C.E. Stanton            | Sept. 1930-Aug. 1934 |
| C.C. Curtis             | Sept. 1934-June 1937 |
| Newton Bruton           | Jul. 1937-Aug. 1939  |
| O.A. Adams              | Sept. 1939-Jan. 1940 |
| Marion McQuary          | Sept. 1940-Aug. 1946 |
| Frank G. Van Doren      | Oct. 1946-Jan. 1961  |
| Jack Barker             | June 1961-June- 1970 |
| Eldon Hailey            | July 1971-Jan. 1974  |
| Gail Davis              | July 1974-Oct. 1989  |
| Ron Greene              | Jan. 1991-Dec. 1998  |
| Sandy Messick           | Jan. 2001-July 2004  |
| Carol Rawlings          | Feb. 2006-May 2008   |
| Michelle Moore-Mitchell | Jan. 2010-Jan. 2011  |

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER/MINISTER OF MUSIC/  
MINISTER OF VISITATION/YOUTH MINISTERS**

|                   |                              |                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| A.C. Whisler      | Director of Education        | Jan. 1927            |
| Frances Fairbanks | Director of Religious Ed.    | Sept. 1929           |
| Chester Earles    | Associate Minister           | Sept. 1945-May 1946  |
| Thomas Yates      | Minister of Visitation       | Sept. 1961           |
| Clint Rigg        | Associate Minister           | Jan. 1964            |
| Mike Black        | Youth Minister               | 1965                 |
| Mark Tintsman     | Associate Minister           | Sept. 1973-Aug. 1975 |
| Rick Morse        | Minister of Youth and Music  | Sept. 1975           |
| Carol Simonson    | Minister of Youth and Music  | Sept. 1977           |
| Mary Van Voorhis  | Minister of Music and Youth  | Sept 1979-Jan.1983   |
| Mike Ferrians     | Minister of Music and Youth  | Jan. 1983-Aug. 1987  |
| Kim Fields        | Associate Minister           | Sept. 1983-Dec. 1984 |
| Steve Silver      | Minister of Youth and Music  |                      |
| Thomas Fowler     | Minister of Visitation       | Sept. 1985-Jan. 2002 |
| Marilee Friso     | Minister of Music and Youth  | July 1990            |
| David Hardin      | Minister of Youth and Music  | May 1991-May 1994    |
| Jeff Batdorf      | Minister of Music            | Sep. 1994            |
| Randy McCrea      | Minister of Youth            | June 1995            |
| Paula Cote        | Minister of Youth            | 1999                 |
| Bill Phipps       | Minister of Visitation       | Feb. 2002            |
| Athina Beckham    | Youth Director               | May 2002             |
| KyriAnne Watkins  | Youth Director               | 2004                 |
| Marieke Jackson   | Director of Youth Ministries | Sept. 2006           |

## **THOSE WHO WERE ORDAINED AT NORTH HILL**

Kenneth Britt  
Rex Jones  
Floyd Chapman  
Dewayne Howell  
Robert Steffer, September 20, 1959  
Richard Burris, 1965  
Stephen Haley, August 25, 1974  
Gary Flower, June 21, 1975  
Richard Morse, August 10, 1980  
Mike Ferrians, June 10, 1990  
Matthew Gordon, June, 2005  
Laura Jennison Reed-Summer 2012

## **INTERIM MINISTERS**

I.E. Metcalf-Feb. 1961-May 1961  
Clint Rigg-July 1970-June 1971  
Maurice Haelen-Feb. 1974-May, 1974  
Glen Mell-May 1974-July, 1974  
Raymond Biggers-Nov. 1989-Dec. 1990  
Ineka Mitchell-March 1999-Dec. 2000  
Hollis Bredeweg-August 2004-  
Besty and Skip Baker-Smith-2005  
Greg Skinner-Aug. 2008-July 2009  
Richard D. Talley-March 2011-Present

The included information of names and dates is to the best of  
our knowledge.

**Please accept our apologies if we have omitted anyone.**

If you have any corrections, ***please let us know*** by contacting the  
church office at (509) 326-5400.